



energy *in* action

What is e7?

The e7 is a non-profit organization consisting of nine leading electric utility companies that spearheads projects and human capacity building activities in developing nations worldwide that exemplify e7's mission:

"To play an active role in global electricity issues and to promote sustainable development."

This diverse international group offers electricity sector expertise and practical competency in electricity generation, transmission and distribution. With field proven expertise in the planning, management, design, operation and maintenance of energy facilities, member companies together provide an all-encompassing scope of the global electricity industry to assist developing countries.

e7 members are:

American Electric Power (USA)
Electricité de France (France)
ENEL (Italy)
Hydro-Québec (Canada)
Kansai Electric Power Company (Japan)
Ontario Power Generation (Canada)
RWE (Germany)
ScottishPower (UK)

* Tokyo Electric Power Company (Japan).

**Observer status*

Micro-Solar Distance Learning Programme

Through the e7 Network of Expertise, a human capacity building programme has been established to promote long-distance education, tele-medicine, and e-commerce support in deep rural communities of developing countries. These areas are located beyond the reach of existing power and communication grids.

As part of the Micro-Solar Distance Learning Programme, solar panels, or photovoltaic systems, are installed in learning centers in remote villages to power advanced information and telecommunications technologies. e7 works with local partners to train people to use and maintain the technologies.

These systems will power lights and computers, a refrigerator for vaccines and a satellite receiver-transmitter to link communities to the Internet. Because of electricity's direct relationship to economic and social development, the e7 anticipates that the programme will accelerate sustainable economic development for these communities as well. To ensure the programme's

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e7 encourages full community participation in the programme.

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success, the E7 establishes in-country partnerships with government and development agencies.

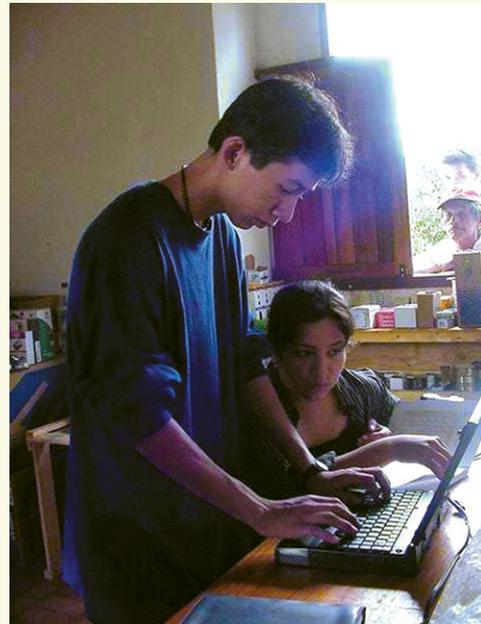
While communities will directly benefit from individual installations, the programme's long-term goals are to make the technologies affordable to more communities by reducing the equipment's power and cost thresholds and to offer governments and development agencies a well-tested model that they can immediately deploy on a large scale.

For example, each time a solar project is installed in a community, it will be evaluated to determine ways to decrease power consumption and the number of solar panels required, thereby lowering costs. The E7 can rapidly conduct many community training sessions and enhance technology integration into social, medical and economic services that are delivered to the communities, and develop revenue sources to pay for recurring satellite use fees and other costs.

With 1,500-watt photovoltaic/battery systems and two-way, high-speed broadband synchronous satellite service, audio, video, data and text can be simultaneously broadcast via the Internet 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To ensure that communities will be able to continue to use these communication tools, financial sustainability plans are developed and implemented before installations and training occur.

The initial Micro-Solar installations under the programme are in Bhutan and the Galapagos Islands. The E7 welcomes partners who would like to make financial or human resource contributions to the Micro-Solar Distance Learning Programme.

**For more information on the E7 Micro-Solar Distance Learning Programme, contact:
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Communicating through the Internet provides many benefits.

Partnerships can help bring energy to two billion people worldwide who are without electricity. Governments, financial institutions and other organizations can

work with electricity companies to make it happen. Put energy into action for sustainable development around the globe.

April 2003

For more information on E7, contact: Secretariat | E7 Network of Expertise for the Global Environment
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